

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308808

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 308808 ACTION ROME INFO
NATO DTD 22 DEC

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308808

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJ: NATO INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION-ITALIAN FUNDING

REF: A. USNATO 6852, B. ROME 20368, C. USNATO 6747

1. AS WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY COUNTERPROPOSAL IN PARA4
OF REF B, DEMARCHE TO GOI WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL AFTER
NATO INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING IS HELD IN ROME. AT THAT
TIME, DEMARCHE WOULD COVER INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION,
ITALY'S ROLE IN AEW, AND MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT.

2. WE HAVE TWO DIFFICULTIES WITH EMBASSY PROPOSAL:

A. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO FIXED SCHEDULE FOR THE IN-
TELLIGENCE BRIEFING, AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IT MAY
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NOT BE PRESENTED IN ROME FOR SOME TIME. TO AWAIT SUCH
AN UNCERTAIN DATE WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH URGENT
NEED FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND AUGMENTATION, AS ARTI-
CULATED BY SECGEN, MILITARY COMMITTEE, SECDEF AND OTHERS
AT DEC 7, 1976 DPC MINISTERIAL. ITALY IS NOW THE MAIN
OBSTACLE TO A NATO CONSENSUS ON INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDING. REF C AND DPC/D(76)28 (REVISED) PROVIDE DE-
TAILS ON NEED FOR ACTION NOW.

B. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO APPROACH ITALY

SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH US PROPOSALS ON INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION, INCREASED ITALIAN ROLE IN AWACS, AND EARLY PASSAGE OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT LEGISLATION. THESE THREE PROGRAMS ENTAIL SEPARATE ISSUES AND PRIORITIES, AND HAVE DIFFERENT TIME SCHEDULES. IF WE ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE THESE ISSUES, THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT LITTLE MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF NATO INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION IS THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE REQUESTED THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATION OF THE DETAILS AND REPORT TO DPC PERM REPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS MEANS THAT THIS ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE RESUMES MEETINGS IN JANUARY. IT IS APPARENT THAT, WITHOUT FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM ROME, THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL CONTINUE TO ARGUE THAT CONDITIONS DO NOT ALLOW ITALY TO ACCEPT A NEW FINANCIAL BURDEN, AND THAT THE PRESENT COST SHARING FORMULA SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED.

4. IF THERE IS ANY CERTAIN WAY TO STALEMATE THE PROGRAM FOR INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING, IT IS TO FOLLOW THE ARGUMENTS EXPRESSED THUS FAR BY THE ITALIANS. WE SHOULD COUNTER THESE ARGUMENTS BY POINTING OUT THAT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDS:

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--WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PLANS FOR A MODERN SURVIVABLE COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

--WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT OUR NUCLEAR FACILITIES;

--WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ESSENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE POSTURE OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES; AND,

--THE PRESENT SLOW RATE OF IMPLEMENTING OUR AIRCRAFT SHELTER PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY BE FURTHER RETARDED.

WE KNOW THAT UNLESS WE TAKE ACTION, FORCE PLAN APPROVAL BY THE DPC WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT FOR LACK OF FUNDS BEFORE 1980 OR LATER - OR NOT AT ALL. DECISIONS TO TAKE ACTION RING HOLLOW IF WE DO NOT APPLY THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION. OUR INVESTMENTS IN FORCE MODERNIZATION WILL BE LESS EFFECTIVE IF WE FAIL TO PROVIDE THE FACILITIES AND COMMON SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THEM.

5. IF THE ITALIANS SHOULD QUESTION THE NEED FOR THE US SPECIAL PROGRAM, OR SUGGEST REVISING NATIONAL COST SHARES, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON STATEMENT MADE BY SECDEF

AT DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL (REF C).

6. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT BENEFITS ITALY DRAWS FROM
INFRASTRUCTURE EXCEED HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM,
AND THIS FAVORABLE COST/BENEFIT RATIO CAN BE EXPECTED
TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

7. WE LEAVE TO THE JUDGMENT OF THE EMBASSY PRECISE
TIMING OF THIS DEMARCHE. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, THE
SOONER THE BETTER.
KISSINGER UNQTE VANCE

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